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Ref: a. Amman's 146 to Department, info Paris 22, London 31
b. Paris' 1107 to Department, info Amman 18, Tel Aviv 21
c. Deptel 921 to Paris, info Amman 90, Tel Aviv 176
d. Paris' 697 to Department, info Tel Aviv 14, London 135

JOINT STATE DEFENSE MESSAGE

Desire information re inventory and/or general availability Mirage III C as well as III E and III F-2. Report in Ref a comes as surprise since it our understanding to date that Jordanians and French have been discussing III C. In addition, we had assumed that French had been discussing III C with Lebs and Saudis. Request Embassy endeavor discreetly obtain answers following:

1. As III C phasing out of FAF could excess III C's become available for acquisition by Jordan? If so, what is estimate of price and availability and how long can III C's be supported?

2. Have Lebs been discussing III C or III E? What price is being asked and what is status of negotiations?

3. Are French discussing III E and/or III F-2 with Israelis?

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4. Can French decisions on production and sale of aircraft be expected during September as indicated Ref d?

5. Can Embassy provide further information on production rate and plans for III E and III F-2?

Mirage III E price clearly beyond anything Jordanians contemplated and to our knowledge was model GOJ had not even considered. Hope GOF (which has helped engage Jordan's attention thus far) might now repeat now see way clear to make available 20 III C's from stock.

Jordan undoubtedly coming under heavy UAC pressure to capitulate and accept MIG's at current Summit Conference. Situation could be relieved and crisis possibly avoided by French offer 20 III C's reasonably priced.

GP-3.

END

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